

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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- Measures scheduled to be taken by East German Government agencies must be submitted for approval to the SED Central Committee. At the SED Politburo the directives and bills drafted at the various ministries are checked against the political line pursued by the SED. Sessions of the SED Politburo are held every Tuesday. Very often the drafts composed by the East German Government agencies are drastically revised by both the Central Committee and the Politburo of the SED. The Central Committee also sees to it that all bills and government decrees agree with the policies pursued by the Governments of the USSR, the People's Democracies, and the Central Committee of the Communist party of the USSR.
- The official procedure is that Government decrees are resolved upon by the East German council of Ministers which meets every second Thursday. The ministers are informed on the material to be discussed only 24 hours in advance. This is mainly due to the fact that the Government drafts submitted to the Politburo are not returned before the Wednesday preceding the session of the Council of Ministers. This procedure is designed to prevent bourgeois ministers from making objections to Government decrees and bills. Sessions of the Council of Ministers are prepared by the Government Chancellery and presided over by State Secretary Dr. Fritz Geyer. When Geyer is ill, which is frequently the case, he is replaced by Anton Fischbach or Rudolf Reimann, who are both assigned to the Main Administration for Government Affairs. Otto Grotewohl attends all meetings of the Council of Ministers; he takes an active part in the discharge of government affairs. Walter Ulbricht and Otto Nuschke, his deputies who maintain bureaus with the Chancellery, attend the meetings of the Council of Ministers rather seldom. Otto Grotewohl very often exercises his influence in the interest of compromise and moderation. Considerable influence is exercised by the personal Referents of the Minister President and his two deputies, i.e. Hans Tzschorn and Ludwig Miermann for Grotewohl; Otto Gotsche for Walter Ulbricht; and Helmut Enke for Otto Nuschke. These personal Referents maintain connection to Soviet agencies and SED organs. Meetings of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers are held every Thursday between the sessions of the Council of Ministers. Real discussions hardly occur at the meetings of these two agencies. All points of the agenda are dealt with in a hurry. Article 81 of the East German Constitution is complied with, inasmuch as all bills are submitted to the People's Chamber.

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